

# FY22 CM Pool Budget Amendment #1

Co-sponsors: Mayor Pro Tem Harper-Madison, and Council Members Alter, Casar, and Fuentes

## Essential Child Care at City Recreation Centers

***SD23: Economic Opportunity & Affordability, Health & Environment, Culture & Lifelong Learning***

### **Providing \$1.2 Million for Added Child Care Capacity at City Recreation Centers**

The Parks & Recreation Department's Out of School Time provides essential elementary aged childcare at city recreation centers, offering academic, social, and physical benefits in a safe and supportive environment.

This year's request would serve more families across four recreation centers for Eastern Crescent communities, which are historically unserved when it comes to after-school childcare. **For every \$100,000 in funding, the child-care program can serve 50 students per day. Depending on available funding, this program is scalable.** Funding after-school programs will provide some relief to Austin families as students go back to school and help eliminate the uncertainty in finding affordable and high-quality child-care. As younger populations are able to be vaccinated, rec centers will be able to ramp-up the number of students they serve by Spring 2022 and be back at full capacity by Fall 2022. \$300,000 of the amount requested is for the purchase of 6 vans, which creates a savings after the first three years of ownership compared to leasing. The additional van purchases are intended to reduce travel time for pick-ups at elementary schools; until the Spring 2022 ramp-up, middle and high school students can be transported for teen programming at these rec centers if needed.

Funding for all 4 Recreation Centers	
	FY22 Funding
Increased capacity at 4 Recreation Center = 450 additional children served	\$900,000 Ongoing Funds
Purchasing of 6 vans	\$300,000 Contractual Obligation
Total	\$1.2M

### **Benefits for Students, Families & Schools**

- PARD staff are actively collaborating with Austin ISD and other school districts to use recreation centers as safe spaces for child-care and virtual learning. With the centers serving as additional educational locations for students, families would be supported with after-school homework help and child-care as all students will be back in-person starting this Fall.
- PARD Inclusion Unit- Some staff are specifically trained in Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) to help students with special/behavioral needs. This is particularly crucial for addressing the needs of students whose social and emotional learning has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the learning loss that students have experienced as the STAAR results have shown, programs would have a student to staff ratio of 10:2. This would allow for more individualized and comprehensive help to students who need it the most.

PARD Recreation Centers to Receive Added Child Care Capacity	
	District
Delores Duffie Rec Center	1
Dove Springs Rec Center	2
Gus Garcia Rec Center	4
Turner Roberts Rec Center	1

\*Prioritized by area with greatest need

